

Exeter Public Library Trustees Minutes March 20, 2018

Present: L. Haslam, J. Peschel, D. Leonard, S. Canty. M. McEntee. B. Young, M. Lafreniere, L. Wilson, L. Wyskiel
Others: P. Sears.

Call to Order: 6:30 Barbara opened the meeting with a roll call. She welcomed Laura Wyskiel as a new Trustee.

Election of Officers:

The slate of officers was announced by the secretary, Lisa Wilson. Nominees were Chair: Barbara Young, Vice Chair: Mary LaFreniere, Secretary, Lisa Wilson, Treasurer: Jim Peschel.

- Leslie/Jim: Was this all discussed ahead of time? Wanted to know the procedure for the election of officers.
- Mary: Traditionally, officers are elected for a two-year term. Barbara, Mary, and Lisa had been officers for one year and so had their second year to go. The current treasurer's term was up and so we needed to choose another treasurer.
- Jim said that he would be out having surgery and he could be treasurer if someone could help him while he was out. Mary said his basic task would be to sign checks once a week and she or Barbara could also sign checks.
- Martha: Said she didn't know this was happening and suggested that an agenda be sent out before each Trustees' meeting. Barbara said if a Trustee wants something on the agenda, he/she should sent the information to Hope a few days before the meeting.
- Mary said that elections happen every March after the town meeting. She suggested that the Trustees and the Director meet with new Trustees after the election for an orientation and to answer any questions that the new Trustee has. This might make for a more successful Board of Trustees.
- Mary said that all Trustees need to be more active in the happenings at the library.

Leslie moved to accept the slate of officers. So voted.

Correspondence: -0-

Minutes: The minutes of the February meeting were accepted with two corrections. Julie's last name is Avant. The reason for going into executive at the last meeting was to discuss Hope's evaluation.

Email List: Barbara sent around an email address list and asked Trustees to make sure their correct email was on it.

Director's Report:

Family Story Times for all ages are held every Monday & Thursday at 11:00 am. Preschool Story Time for ages 3 yrs. old & up, are held every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Open Art is every Monday and Friday from 11:30-4:30 pm. Materials and instructions are provided.

This month the Page-Turners (9 & 10-year-olds) will be painting their ceiling panels. This is a special event that we hold for our older readers who always look forward to it. The tiles will be added to the ceiling; come down and take a look.

The children's sewing group, ages 8 and older, meets once a month and are working on a quilt.

On March 10th, the 11-year-old Book Group discussed A Wrinkle in Time and made chalkboard quote art inspired by teen's favorite quotes. The 12 & 13-year-old Book Group discussed Love, Stargirl and had a scavenger hunt with an anti-bullying game. The High School Book Group discussed The Cellar, a book made popular through the online self-publishing website Wattpad. Middle School Book Groups ended in March. In April, the High School Book Group will discuss The Reformed Vampire Support Group.

EPL LOVES YA: (for Teens) In March they created custom buttons, played mini golf, watched movies and will on March 29th participate in "SPY HARD" a super spy training camp with a scavenger hunt, decoding lessons, invisible ink making and a sneaky spy obstacle course. In April, because it is Stress Awareness Month, EPL LOVES YA will host mindfulness teen programming including Mandala Meditation Stone Painting, DIY Wax Paper Lanterns, super smoothies and a Teen Choice Movie.

The Adult Evening Book Group discussed The Little Paris Bookshop on March 14th and watched a video on famous French river cruises. The Morning Book Group discussed Agatha Christie's Witness for the Prosecution on March 14th and will watch the film adaptation on March 28th at 1:00 pm.

On Monday April 2 at 1 pm we will show the BBC documentary Earth: One Amazing Day as a reminder of Earth Day April 22.

On Thursday April 10 at 6:30 pm Rob Garneau will present a program on travelling and hiking in Spain.

On April 17 at 3 pm Regina Delany and Claudia Altemis will perform an Irish music program.

We are continuing to show movies on the first and third Mondays of the month alternating a newly released movie with a classic film.

The next Movies & Munchies (a movie for all ages) is May 9 showing The Incredibles at 1 pm.

All our programs are free and open to the public

Operating Statement:

- Leslie asked what the Income Computer Printer Ink line was for. Hope explained that patrons pay for computer and copier prints. This is the income from that and this income is used to offset purchase of ink for the copiers.

- Jim asked if there could be a line for the loan to the Historical Society. Hope said she will add it.
- Jim asked what line the loan to the Historical Society was taken from in 2013. Hope said Other Professional Services.
- Jim asked how the budget lines are set for “Other Income”. Hope said that those lines are estimates taken from last year’s budget lines.
- The Operating Statement was accepted.

Building, Grounds and Technology:

- Martha asked if we asked the town for a recount on the library warrant article since it lost by only 6 or 7 votes. Barbara said no since the article needed 60% of the vote to pass and it only received 51%.
- Martha noted that Hope deserved a great deal of credit even though the warrant article lost. Leslie agreed.
- Denise said that the Selectmen think that these larger projects should go in phases and that it might have been easier to pass if that had been the case.
- Martha asked if we would try again next year.
- Hope said that she was happy with the votes we got. However, maybe residents didn’t realize that part of the cost was because we had planned not to close the library. That makes it a bit more expensive. Residents didn’t want the library to be closed; they need access when the work is going on.
- Hope also said that the Trustees have been working on this plan for over 5 years and have paired it down as much as possible. Jim suggested taking out the River Walk. Hope said that there were many people who voted for the library article because of the River Walk. It enhances the library and makes the library property a part of the town by adding river access from Swasey Parkway.
- Steph is afraid the project will not pass next year either. She and Jim still feel that the project should be rethought and made smaller.
- Hope says that, unlike the Rec Department project, all the parts of the library project are dependent on each other. The issues with the old building will not go away. The leaks from the roof decks, the lack of insulation, the old heating and air conditioning equipment, the lack of space in the Children’s Room and the lack of meeting rooms are all parts that must be addressed.
- Jim feels that we can still look at the project and see if there are areas to pair down. Maybe we could immediately expand the Children’s Room into the Meeting Room. Hope said that we have not been able to totally fix the leaks from the decks above the Meeting Room and that would have to be addressed. Even though they have been repaired many time, the leaks still exist due to the design of the building.
- Hope feels that the Trustees need to fully back the plan. The building is old and has a lot of issues. Martha agrees and feels the Trustees should be gung-ho supportive of the plan.
- Leslie feels that we need to educate the public as to the problems with the building and the reasons for the cost to the renovation. Lisa agrees.

- Jim asks that the Trustees create some short-term goals for getting the renovation passed next March.
- Hope said that the CIP process for the town begins in May.

Finance and Fundraising: -0-

Long Range Plan: -0-

Social: Lisa reported that the date of the Staff Appreciation lunch will be changed to April 26.

Personnel and Policy: Pursuant to RSA:91-A: 3 (Executive Session) Mary asked for a vote to enter into Executive Session at 7:26 pm to discuss Hope's evaluation. So voted. Hope and Pam left the room. Executive Session ended at 7:48 pm. Hope and Pam came back in the room.

Lisa read the results:

1. "We acknowledge this imperfect evaluation process. We will move on and acknowledge that this is done for the year."
2. "The Board of Trustees apologizes for the delay and the untidy, messy process. We will work together to move forward constructively."

Continuing Business:

- Leslie asked if we should table the discussion of the Financial Policy & Procedures until the next meeting since this meeting has already run so long. That would enable Laura to become familiar with the draft copy.
- Jim's suggestion was to make sure the policy stated what the town is responsible for and what the library is responsible for.
- This will be discussed at the April meeting.
- The longevity pay for 2018 was rolled into salaries for 2018. There will be no more Longevity Pay. Staff has been informed.

New Business:

- Barbara passed out the library's Organization Chart.
- Hope gave Jim the notebook on the Edward Jones account. He decided to make an appointment to come into the library to review it.
- Leslie acknowledged Paula Sears service to the Board of Trustees and the town of Exeter. All Trustees agreed.

The next meeting will be April 17 at 6:30 pm.

Pam Darlington